

F

O

C

U

S



**GROWING
TO SERVE**



**September
2025**

**Our Savior
Lutheran Church**
745 Front Street S
Issaquah, WA



From "Acorn" to "Wren" by Pr. Kristin-Luana Baumann

When author Robert McFarlane learned that 40 some nature words had been removed from a widely used children's dictionary, he knew he had to respond. They had been replaced with words like "blog," "cut-and-paste," and "voicemail," because those were used so much more than the words about nature. What would happen to "acorn," "adder," "bluebell," and "dandelion" if future generations did not even have words to name them?

Together with illustrator Jackie Morris, he created the book *The Lost Words*. It is a beautiful, large volume which the two of them like to call a "spell book." The poems and songs within are meant to be treated like spells; spoken or sung aloud to summon back the world of kingfishers and ferns, herons and willows into all our lives. The artwork is just magical. Since the book was published in 2017, it has touched the hearts and minds of uncounted people, children and adults alike. It has inspired further books, works of art, and exhibitions. Maybe you wish to read it to your children and grandchildren (www.thelostwords.org/lostwordsbook/)?

It is good to honor all the magnificent species which God has created as we enter into the Season of Creation this year. God made all creatures and beings to enrich the world, but too many humans of our time show no regard for that, and do not even notice when more and more species become endangered or extinct. It is not only children who need to re-learn the names that Adam gave to the animals of this world (Genesis 2:19-20)!

In this spirit of increasing awareness of the needs of God's good creation, I will introduce the theme for the Season of Creation 2025. It is "Peace with Creation." The logo shows a peace dove carrying an olive branch

Continued on page 2 . . .



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Continued from page 1 . . .

from a barren tree to a fruitful one. This is a symbol for “peace as a transition from a war-torn, overexploited land to one that is fertile, thriving, and hospitable.”

“Peace with Creation” is an important message which deserves to be spread throughout the community. To facilitate that, **we will host rock painting tables on all Sundays during the Season of Creation at 11 AM (September 7 until October 5)**. We will provide all you need to paint peace doves or other words and symbols of peace on rocks. Take the painted rocks with you and place them all over town to send a message of peace to our community. **On September 21, we will host an additional Rock Painting for Families from 3-4:30 PM**. We will invite all our Issaquah and ELCC friends, and maybe you, too, know a family who would like to attend?

What if Our Savior would have a **Garden of Peace**? The inner courtyard between Spirit of Peace and our music classrooms is a place waiting to be developed into something beautiful. Visit that space, stand in stillness for a moment, and see how it speaks to you. And then share what the Spirit told you with the pastors.

Join Jon Smith and the **Litter Clean-up Crew to keep Issaquah’s streets free of trash on Saturdays, September 6 and October 4. Meet at 9 AM** at the Issaquah Post Office parking lot on NW Gilman Blvd. (More details on page 3).

The City of Issaquah has many green spaces and they need care. Attend the **Forest Steward Orientation on Saturday, September 20 from 9-11 AM at Confluence Park** to learn how to help maintain our forested parks. Learn more at www.issaquahwa.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=13850.

Learn how recreational activities can negatively impact the land and how you can make a positive difference at the **Snoqualmie Ancestral Lands Movement** webpage: snoqualmietribe.us/snoqualmie-tribe-ancestral-lands-movement/. There you can find links to like and follow their Facebook and Instagram pages to stay informed about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

Continued on page 3 . . .

Continued from page 2 . . .

Participate in one of the “Xaalh and the Way of the Masks: Honoring Ourselves, the Land, Water, and Forests 2025” events around the region from September 6-20. Learn more at se-si-le.org/campaigns/xaalh-and-the-way-of-the-masks. (More details on page 15).

If you have something to add to this growing list of thoughts, recommendations, and activities for the Season of Creation, please let the pastors know!

Let us pray:

Beloved Christ,

who spoke Shalom to frightened hearts,
stir us to compassionate action.

Inspire us to work for the end of conflict,

and for the full restoration of broken relationships –

with you, with the ecumenical community, with the human family, and with all Creation.

Amen.



September Issaquah Volunteer Litter Clean-up Event

THIS Saturday, September 6, 2025 at 9:00 AM

Meet at the Post Office parking lot on NW Gilman Blvd. rain or shine. Coffee and snacks provided.

- ◆ Use your own gloves and trash bags.
- ◆ Team up with a friend; select an area to work; then move out.
- ◆ *Dispose of litter in municipal trash bins/dumpsters.* Don't leave it.
- ◆ Use common sense and be safe.
- ◆ Join our Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/611860370604097/>
- ◆ Questions? Email Jon at jsmith1099@hotmail.com.

Submitted by Jon Smith



VIDEO SERIES from The Great Courses: *Searching for the Historical Jesus*

**Presented by Jean-Pierre Isbouts, DLitt (on video);
and facilitated by Pr. Olaf at OSLC.**

Please mark your calendars for The Great Courses' *Searching for the Historical Jesus* Video Series at OSLC on Thursdays from September 25-January 22.

This 15-part series explores the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth within the historical, cultural, and political context of first-century Judea. Rather than focusing solely on theology, Dr. Isbouts, professor emeritus at Fielding Graduate University, examines the "rabbi from Galilee" as a historical figure whose teachings and actions sparked the world's largest religion.

Filmed on location in Israel and Jordan, the course draws on archaeology, the Gospels, Josephus, and recent scholarship to illuminate Jesus's world—Galilee's poverty, Roman exploitation, and the diversity of Jewish thought. Viewers follow his story from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, reflecting on episodes such as the Sermon on the Mount, his baptism, Temple confrontations, and his crucifixion.

Major themes include how Roman power structures shaped daily life, how Jewish schools interacted with Greco-Roman ideas, and how Jesus's teachings of love and justice transformed into a worldwide faith through the work of Paul and the early church. Along the way, the series considers the line between historical fact and religious belief, inviting reflection on Jesus as Son of Man, Son of God, preacher, Messiah, and Savior.

With vivid visuals, historical insight, and psychological depth, *Searching for the Historical Jesus* offers both believers and seekers a compelling look at the man whose message continues to shape our world.

15 Sessions in total from starting on Thursday, September 25 and ending on January 22. Every session features a 20-25 minute video segment followed by a time for questions and discussion led by Pr. Olaf. All sessions are 1 hour long.

Thursdays at 12:00 PM (In Person) and 7:00 PM (Zoom)

For a detailed outline, follow this QR code to the course page on The Great Courses' webpage.



Searching for the Historical Jesus Teaching Series Schedule

Session 1 – Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 2 – Thursday, Oct. 02, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 3 – Thursday, Oct. 09, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 4 – Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 5 – Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 6 – Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 7 – Thursday, Nov. 06, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 8 – Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 9 – Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025: No Meeting
(Thanksgiving Day)

Session 10 – Thursday, Dec. 04, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 11 – Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 12 – Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

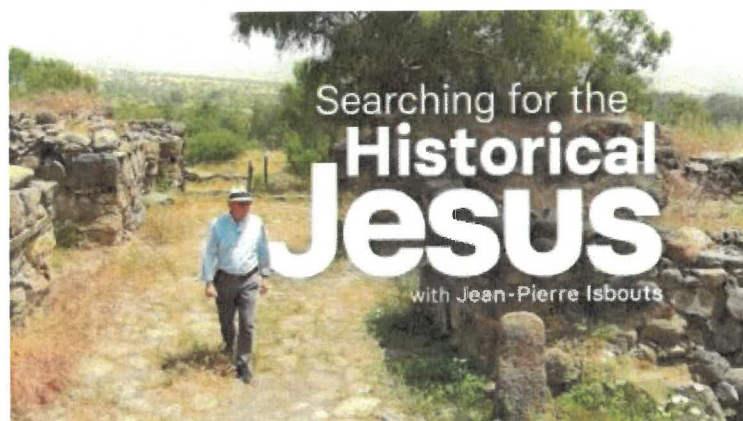
Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025: No Meeting
(Christmas Day)

Thursday, Jan. 01, 2026: No Meeting
(New Year's Day)

Session 13 – Thursday, Jan. 08, 2026
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 14 – Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom

Session 15 – Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026
12:00 PM – In Person, 7:00 PM – Zoom



Our Savior Community Financial Update

“Espresso Your Faith—One Cup at a Time!”

Is it time for fall cleaning? Is it time to straighten the junk drawer, empty pockets, or go through the pockets of the purses or jackets you used this past summer? Our large coffeepot in the narthex would be happy to receive any spare coin or bills you come across in your fall cleaning.

The next ingathering is Sunday, September 7. Just look for us in the green visor caps! If you miss this event, there will be another on the first Sunday of the month for the next nine months.

No spare change? How about upping your regular giving by \$5.00 per week? If you are an electronic giver and need help making that adjustment, let me know and I can adjust the amount on my end.

The coffeepot and spare change is kinda fun, isn't it? But the goal is to get us thinking about our giving and how we spend our money. Do you go out for fancy coffee every week? Do you need that coffee or could you use that money to increase your contribution to the church?

At the Annual Meeting in June we adopted a budget which requires increased contributions from the membership – that's you and me! In order to fund projects for local and global outreach, we all need to give more.

Our congregation is represented throughout the Issaquah community: KidVantage (diapers, formula, clothing); Vine Maple Place (housing for single moms); Issaquah Food Bank (food and hygiene items); Issaquah Schools (backpacks and school supplies); Passage Point (housekeeping supplies for families starting over).

Our congregation is represented worldwide: Bright Stars of Bethlehem (a Christian school in Palestine); Disaster Relief for flood/fire victims in the US; Sole Family Bali (a project addressing poverty in Bali). These are some of the projects that we voted to support when we adopted the budget in June. Are you still on board with your support?

And let's think ahead a little bit. Year end (December) is rapidly approaching. Have you considered your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)? The RMD for your IRA or other applicable retirement accounts such as a traditional 401(k)? I believe those

Continued on page 7 . . .

Our Savior Community

Continued from page 6 . . .

distributions need to take place before December 31. Consider OSLC as a recipient. Monies can be directed to the Endowment Fund (the gift that keeps on giving) or to the General Fund to help us meet our budget and fund projects like those listed in the above paragraph. It's not too early to take your RMD for 2025.

From my standpoint, things are going well. We ended the Fiscal Year (June 30) very close to our targeted budget, both in income and expense. Our Designated Funds are under control, and we are using them wisely. We have drawn funds, both principal and interest, from the Legacy Fund, and as of June 30 it was back to its original gift amount of \$420,000. That's amazing! Also, I'm having fun with the "Espresso Your Faith-one cup at a time!" I hope you are having fun, too, and are experiencing the JOY in GIVING.

Remember, if you need adjustments to your electronic giving let me know. Look for me in a green visor cap on Sunday, September 7.

Submitted by Wendy Winslow, OSLC Treasurer



**GIVE BOLDLY,
ONE COFFEE AT A TIME**



Our Savior Community

Stephen Ministry Update

Stephen Ministry Is on Course!

A BIG THANKS to all who have been involved in any capacity over the last year to help get Stephen Ministry off the ground at OSLC! Thank you to Pastor Olaf and Pastor Kristin-Luana for the vision, and to the Stephen Ministry Launch Team for helping shoulder many of the Stephen Leader responsibilities to keep me sane! (Also, a special shout out to our “Balloon-Blower-Upper,” who provided moral support, safety management, and propane tank expertise. Thank you, Gary!)



If you might be willing to help provide snacks or beverages for our weekly 2.5 hour sessions from October 2025-April 2026, or volunteer in some other capacity, please see Lori Downey.

Here are some Stephen Ministry **updates** and **requests** for all members of Our Savior Lutheran Church:

We are on course for our Stephen Minister Training Course to begin on Wednesday, October 9 in the Education Room. In early October, the tables will be set for our class and will remain set through the end of April 2026. Should you need to use or remove any of the tables or chairs from the Education Room, we ask that you kindly replace them so that our class setting remains in place. Thank you in advance!

And do you know what is absolutely fantastic? We have a full class!

- ◆ There are three people training to become Stephen Ministers!
- ◆ We have nine people taking the training for their personal enrichment and so they can positively impact whoever they meet in life! (There are also eight people on the waiting list to take the training the next time it is offered!)
- ◆ In addition, five generous members of the congregation have volunteered (well, okay they “agreed”) to be guest teachers! This is a benefit to all the students, allowing them to experience a variety of voices and teaching styles throughout the course, and allows me (your Stephen Leader) to be an actual student occasionally. Thank you, volunteers!

Continued on page 9 . . .

Our Savior Community

Continued from page 8 . . .

Please know that the Stephen Ministry Program at Our Savior Lutheran Church is YOUR Stephen Ministry Program. As we make our way through the Stephen Minister Training Course (SMTTC) over the next 7-8 months, we'll keep you advised of what topics we are studying, as well as share some of the tips that we learn.

Along the way, we want to make sure that every person that attends OSLC has a clear understanding of what Stephen Ministry *is* and what Stephen Ministers *do*, as well as how you can be part of the Stephen Ministry program here at OSLC. We also request you uphold each student and teacher in corporate and private prayer throughout the course. A complete list of students and teachers will be provided when we begin classes in October.

Thank you all!

Jen Winslow, OSLC Stephen Leader



Thank You from the Community Outreach Committee



The KidVantage Donation Drive was a HUGE success on Sunday, August 10. THANK YOU, OSLC MEMBERS! What great support from our members who brought items in as well as \$330 that bought additional items on their list. HUGE boxes of diapers and wipes were donated to create a FULL two tables for delivery. The \$330 bought blankets, infant clothing, formula, and premie and infant diapers: all sizes and many boxes plus wipes. Community Outreach Committee's budgeted amount of \$500 bought formula and personal care items. Delivery was made on Monday, August 11 at 7:00 p.m. after all clients of the day were helped. These photos were taken of all donations. Your Outreach Committee at work with the help of all.

—Submitted by Dianne Tanner

Our Savior Community Community Outreach Committee

THIS Sunday, September 7, the Community Outreach Committee will hold a Food Drive for the Issaquah Food Bank. The need continues to grow because of cuts to food benefits and government funding, as well as the increase in the cost of living.

Thank you to those who have already left donations on the table in the narthex! Below is the updated Issaquah Food Bank Priority Needs List (it's been inserted in the bulletin and weekly emails). Your support is greatly appreciated.

Priority Needs List for OSLC's Food Drive on Sunday, September 7

We kindly ask for only unopened, unexpired items from this list. The list changes as our need for items changes. *(Updated July 17, 2025)*

- Canned Chicken and Canned Tuna
- Peanut Butter
- Other Canned Proteins: Spam, Salmon, Roast Beef, Sardines
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Pasta Sauce and Pasta
- White Rice (2 lb. bags only)
- Hamburger Helper/Pasta Roni/Rice-a-Roni
- Hearty Soup (Progresso, Campbell's Chunky, etc.)
- Vegetarian Soup
- Chili
- Canned Pasta
- Ensure (Chocolate or Vanilla preferred)
- Ramen
- Canned Fruit & Vegetables
- Protein Bars (Protein Kind Bars, Protein Clif Bars, etc.)
- Individual Snacks for Kids
- Pancake Mix (regular and gluten free)
- Condiments: Ketchup, Mustard, Syrup, Soy Sauce, Jam (regular size, not jumbo size)
- Cooking Oil (16-20 oz. bottles only please)
- Coffee (ground preferred, not decaf)
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers – sizes 4, 5, 6
- Pull-Ups – sizes 2T-3T & 3T-4T
- Incontinence Supplies (men's and women's, all sizes)
- Feminine Pads (regular or super sizes, no tampons)
- Shampoo (regular size, not mini/travel size)



Our Savior Community

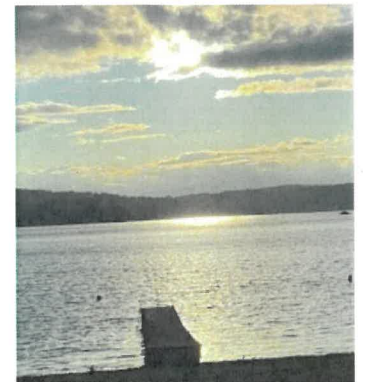
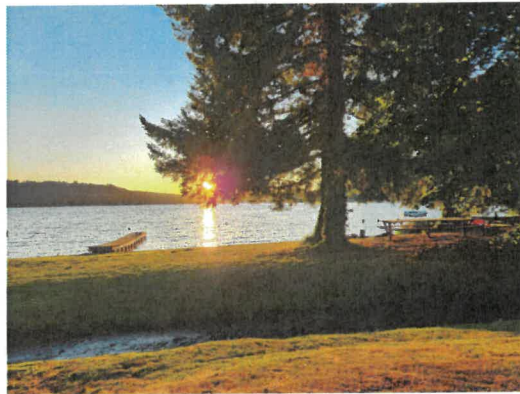
Photos of Beach Church

Thanks to all who made Beach Church possible on August 6, 13, and 20, whether by attending, bringing food, buying and transporting supplies, setting up, grilling hot dogs, leading worship, playing the guitar, singing, helping with s'mores, etc. Thanks also for submitting your photos of the fun and fellowship we shared together.



Our Savior Community

More Photos of Beach Church!



Our Savior Community

Summer Photos at OSLC and in the Community

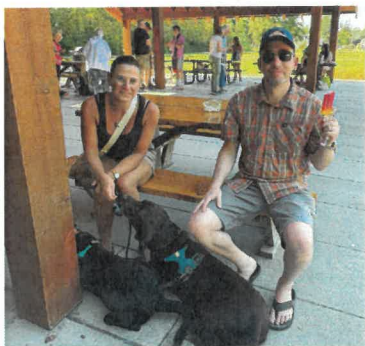


Mary Fricke was at church on August 17, celebrating her 98th birthday!



Mission Quilters taking a well-deserved break.

Pupsicles and Popsicles Pet Blessing at Confluence Park on August 10



Our Savior Community

Announcements

New First Aid Kit and Naloxone (Narcan) Nasal Spray in Narthex

In the narthex above the Defibrillator box, you'll find a new first aid kit (purchased by Cynthia), along with boxes of Naloxone (Narcan) nasal spray (given to Pr. Kristin-Luana from the City of Issaquah). Both are clearly labeled in red bags. We want to make sure OSLC is prepared for a first aid or opioid overdose emergency.



A New Music Opportunity for You Starting THIS Sunday, Sept. 7!

OSLC is instituting a "monthly melody." Every month the choir will feature a piece, including some old and new favorites. Nora (the choir director) will be introducing the monthly piece in church and providing the practice dates. This will be a chance for you to work with other church members for a few practices and then sing in church for just one month. It is perfect if you are traveling or looking for a more flexible schedule. If you are not comfortable reading music, there will be a recording and we will make sure you have a buddy to sing with. Come spend a few weeks with a fun and welcoming group.

September Song Selection: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

- ◆ **Sunday, September 7 (1st practice):** 11:10-noon in the sanctuary
- ◆ **Sunday, September 14 (2nd practice):** 11:10-noon in the sanctuary
- ◆ **Sunday, September 21:** Sing during Offering (during worship)

Eagle Scout Project Completed Around Benches Outside Anderson Hall

On Saturday, August 24, Noah Portman and his crew worked around the benches outside of Anderson Hall. They installed pavers underneath the benches and a retaining wall behind. This is Noah's Eagle Scout project. It looks great. The benches can now be safely enjoyed again. Thank you, Noah!



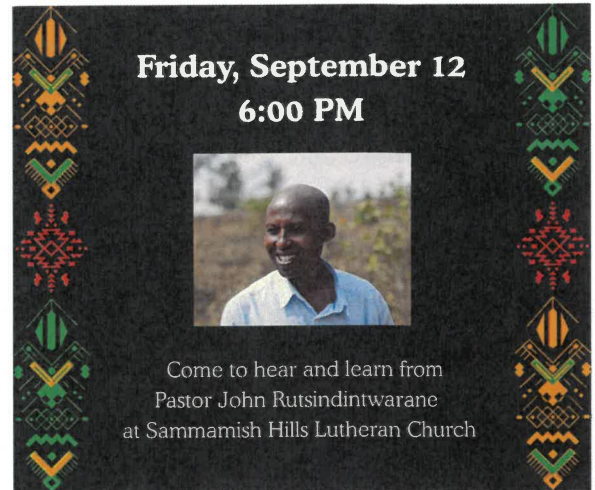
Our Savior Community

Community Announcements

Pr. John Rutsindintwarane to Speak at SHLC on September 12

We have an opportunity to hear from an extraordinary pastor, community organizer, visionary, and faith leader. Pastor John Rutsindintwarane will be at Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church on Friday, September 12 at 6:00 p.m. There will also be a Zoom option for those who cannot attend in person. Please mark this on your calendar!

While Pastor John is currently based in Rwanda, he is well known by Pastors Mark, Nyla, and Larry Thomas. They are all thrilled that we have the chance to learn from him in our own backyard. We are hoping to hear about his strategies and methods for community-based organizing. He will share with us effective ways that we, as brothers and sisters in Christ, can identify some of the unique needs in our Eastside community and how we can join together to help to address those needs. We believe his work and insight will be helpful to move us forward in our collaboration efforts.



The Way of the Masks is a Native-led journey of ceremony and resistance to protect ancient forests, salmon habitat, and tribal sovereignty. **From September 7 to 20**, Indigenous leaders from Se'Si'Le and the Lummi Nation's House of Tears Carvers will travel over 1,600 miles across the Northwest, bringing carved cedar masks that honor the sacred balance of life, called xaalh. This journey will feature nine stops open to the public in Bellingham, Olympia, Portland, Eugene, Klamath River, Lapwai, Lower Elwha, and Seattle. This year's campaign centers on defending the Roadless Rule, one of the strongest protections for our remaining wild forests. That protection is now under threat from Trump-era rollbacks. Events along the route will bring together Tribal Nations, local communities, faith leaders, and environmental advocates in powerful acts of solidarity and ceremony. The Sierra Club is proud to help organize this journey alongside Se'Si'Le and partners including Save Our wild Salmon, Washington Conservation Action, and others. Together, we're calling for the protection of these sacred ecosystems. **We invite you to show up, spread the word, and stand with us in defense of forests, rivers, and justice.**



Come Worship with Us during the Season of Creation/Pentecost



[Sunday, September 7: 1st Sunday of Season of Creation](#)

(13th Sunday after Pentecost)

[Sunday, September 14: 2nd Sunday of Season of Creation](#)

(14th Sunday after Pentecost)

[Sunday, September 21: 3rd Sunday of Season of Creation](#)

(15th Sunday after Pentecost)

[Sunday, September 28: 4th Sunday of Season of Creation](#)

(16th Sunday after Pentecost)

In Person: Please continue to stay home if feeling sick, and receive Holy Communion in a safe manner.

Online: Sunday worship services are livestreamed at 10:00 a.m. A link to the service is published in the weekly email (sent with the bulletin), or you can click here: [Worship Live](#). If you try the link prior to 10:00 a.m. each Sunday, you may see the message "Video unavailable."

Services are recorded and posted to the [Our Savior YouTube Channel](#). If needed, pull down the menu under "Uploads," then click on "Past Live Streams," or go to our website at www.oslcissaquah.org.



Communion Services at Timber Ridge

Here are the upcoming dates for the services at Timber Ridge Retirement Community:

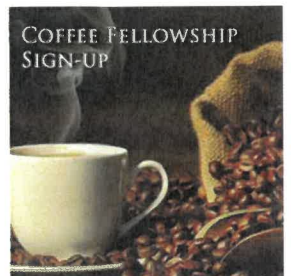
- ◆ **THIS Thursday, September 4** at 2:00 p.m. (SALC-led)
- ◆ **Thursday, October 2** at 2:00 p.m. (OSLC-led)



Request for Coffee Hour Helpers

Coffee Hour is a great time to visit and meet others. However, we have been become a smaller group in setting it up and taking it down. We have a signup sheet on the wall by the coffee with the help needed. One of us "regulars" would appreciate a few more helpers to work with us each week. There is a booklet with pictures and directions thanks to Marilyn Carlson.

We will try this out for the month of September. If it doesn't work out, we will make adjustments. Thank you in advance for this service to our Lord. –Submitted by Lois Dounis





**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Thank You!

May 14, 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church
745 Front St S
Issaquah, WA 98027-4206

On these next pages are thank you letters received the last few months from organizations expressing gratitude for OSLC's support of their programs and ministries. Your generosity makes these donations possible.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,000.00 to Lutheran World Relief given through the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. I'd like to share a story with you about how your generosity changes lives.

Dilan Cabiroğcu, 17, lives in Türkiye with her parents. After their whole neighborhood was destroyed in an earthquake, they moved into a container home provided by generous donors like you. Dilan became depressed when her damaged school could not reopen, because she missed her friends and routine. Then she started spending time at a Lutheran World Relief-supported community center that offers games, classes and counseling to help teens find hope for the future. Today, she attends counseling, loves robotics classes and dreams of becoming a nurse.

"If it wasn't for this place, I would probably still be experiencing the shock of the earthquake," Dilan says.

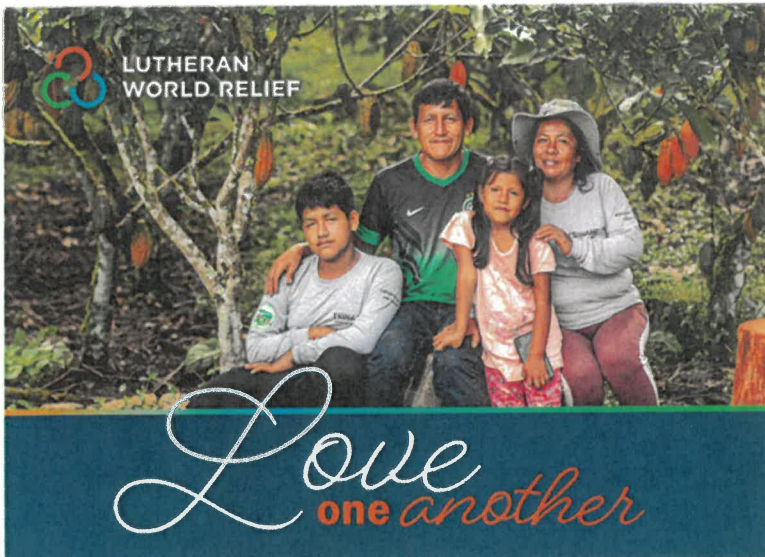
I can't wait to see whose life will be changed by your recent gift. When you love your neighbors, you transform lives. We are proud to carry your love to those who need it most... until your love reaches every neighbor.

Warm Regards,

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO

P.S. For the latest updates on how your generous gifts are reaching neighbors in need all over the world, I invite you stay in touch through our blog (lwr.org/news) and our Facebook page (facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of our staff at 800.597.5972 or lwr@lwr.org.

Please retain this letter for tax purposes



I give you a new commandment, that you **love one another**.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

John 13:34

Daria Hinojosa Prado and her husband, William Urbano Quispe, are members of a women's cacao cooperative supported by Lutheran World Relief in Peru. Your love helps women produce sought-after beans and seek higher prices. The couple's 13-year-old son Rodrigo plans to continue the family farm when he is grown. Thanks to congregations like yours, cacao and coffee farmers around the world can support their families with sustainable incomes.

Until your love reaches every neighbor.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

LWR.ORG/CONGREGATIONS

Dear Pastors Kristin and Olaf,
Thank you so much for our Savior's
most recent gift to LWR. Your
love and generosity arrives at
a critical time as crises around the
world are rising and the needs of
our neighbors are so great. We are
so grateful for your partnership in
this important ministry.

In gratitude, Araceli



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

June 25, 2025

Thank You

Our Savior Lutheran Church
745 Front St S
Issaquah, WA 98027-4206

Dear Our Savior Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, which were received by the ELCA churchwide organization last month.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

—1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Your gift is a reminder that our work of faith and labor of love are not done alone. We give thanks for our shared work and our shared hope, which inspire ELCA churchwide ministries, in partnership with congregations and synods, to make God's love real in exciting and ever-changing ways.

Your generosity is starting new faith communities and sustaining existing ones, empowering leaders, responding to disaster with long-term commitment, and addressing hunger and poverty. Through your gifts, you join with the whole church in loving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you! May the God of all good gifts continue to work among you.

In Christ,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for gift detail.

8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101 • 773-380-2700 or 800-638-3522 • ELCA.org • LivingLutheran.com

Gifts are designated for:

Date	Program	Amount
4/30/2025	Refugees	\$2,000.00

Thank
you

YWCA SEATTLE | KING | SNOHOMISH

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Seattle | King | Snohomish

Thank you for supporting YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish and the thousands of women and families we serve each year.

Together, we will root out injustice until the world sees women and people of color the way we do: equal, powerful, and unstoppable.

ABOUT YWCA

YWCA is on a mission to eliminate racism and empower women.

We provide direct services focused on women and their families, with programs that address some of our region's most pressing challenges: housing stability, economic advancement, and health, and safety.

YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

YWCAWORKS.ORG

On behalf of Passage Point and our new community members, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation. Your support plays a crucial role in helping us provide essential resources and a welcoming environment for those who are transitioning into our community.

We truly appreciate your commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive community. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you once again for your generosity!

YWCA PASSAGE POINT STAFF/COMMUNITY

August 22, 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

You are hearing from me because I want to personally thank you for all the kindness and care you've show for homeless families. AND I want to thank you for making 25 years of helping homeless moms and kids possible!

As one of our most faithful donors, your generosity has helped moms and kids rebuild their lives and find success after experiencing homelessness. Without you, we wouldn't have been able to care for the 5,000 individuals helped in the last year. What a miracle!

Because of you, homeless families received safe shelter, counselling, food, and other life-changing care.

Your kindness also gave them something far greater than meeting physical needs. You helped provide dignity, hope, and respect.

To show you how much of a difference you are making, I'd like to share a special story.

Tasha has lived in and out of a tent or car for years. But it was the love of her son, Jace, that motivated Tasha to get the help she desperately needed. Thanks to you, they found shelter at Vine Maple Place. Tasha is now attending parenting and employment classes, receiving counseling, and taking steps toward a brighter future.

And Jace? Well, the smile on his face while he plays with other kiddos at preschool and day camp says it all. Your generosity is giving families like Tasha's exactly what they need to leave homelessness behind.

In the coming months, we're excited to kick-off our "Season of Generosity" to help more families in need. With your faithful support, we will continue our commitment to ending homelessness for every family that calls for help.

I'm so grateful for God's provision in bringing struggling families to Vine Maple Place. And I'm so grateful for you and your unwavering support.

Thank you for stepping up when you're needed most.

God Bless,

Vine Maple Place
21730 Dorre Don Way SE
Maple Valley, WA 98038

August 26, 2025

Dear Our Savior Congregants,



Thank you for your generous support of Tools4School!

With your gift of backpacks and school supplies, close to 1,000 students across the Issaquah School District—who would otherwise be unprepared for the first day of class—will be able to walk in the door ready to learn.

Thank you!

The need for this program continues to grow throughout our entire district and thanks to your generosity, we're here to meet that growing need. Your gift sends every student who receives a backpack and supplies a clear message that they are seen, valued, and deserving of every opportunity to succeed.

Throughout the school year, Tools4School will continue to accept requests from schools for additional supplies for families who arrive mid-year and need financial support. *None of this would be possible without your generosity.*

On behalf of the Issaquah Schools Foundation and all our ISD students, thank you for your caring and impactful donation to Tools4School!

With appreciation and gratitude,

Trisha Marshall

Trisha

Executive Director

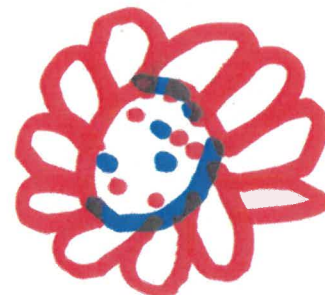
Thank you to everyone at Our Savior! You've made sure ALL ISD students can start school with what they need! Julie

PS – Is this gift eligible for a match from your employer? If so, we really appreciate the time it takes for you to complete this process. Matching gifts from generous employers multiply the power of gifts like yours.

Date of Donation: 8/25/2025
Donation Amount: \$500.00
Designated Fund: Tools 4 School 2025



THANK YOU!
for all the books



Northwest Washington Synod

The Spirit: September 2025



Bishop Shelley Bryan Wée

From the Bishop:

For the Life of the World was the theme of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, held July 28-August 2 in Phoenix, AZ. This theme is rooted in the Nicene Creed (this year celebrating its 1,700th anniversary) and in Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer's reminder that "*The church is the church only when it exists for others.*" The theme felt especially timely in today's environment where hateful words and actions continue to demean neighbors, sow division, and target the most vulnerable. While it was not done perfectly, and while there is always more work to do, I left Phoenix trusting that we

have a shared commitment to walk in the way of Jesus: speaking truth in love, protecting the dignity of every person, and bearing public witness to God whose way is marked by justice, mercy, and peace for all people. In short: to live and move and act *for the life of the world.*

Here are a few highlights of what occurred during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Please go to www.elca.org if you would like more information.

Actions

- We elected Bishop Yehiel Curry as the new Presiding Bishop.
- We elected Pastor CeCee Mills as the new ELCA Secretary.
- We adopted our newest Social Statement: Faith and Civic Life.
- We approved updates to the Human Sexuality Social Statement.
- We heard the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church's final report along with the ELCA Church Council's response to the report.
- We adopted the Churchwide Memorial *Toward Ending the Occupation of Palestine*. (This memorial came about in part due to the Memorial we passed during the Northwest Washington Synod Assembly.)
- We adopted a Memorial on Indian Boarding School Remembrance.
- We received the Common Statement on the Filioque (this is regarding the Nicene Creed).
- We made Constitution revisions that I encourage you all to read as they become available. I am especially grateful for the new revisions concerning on-leave-from-call for Rostered Ministers.
- We thanked Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Secretary Sue Rothmeyer for their ministry and service.

Continued on page 24 . . .

Northwest Washington Synod

Continued from page 23 . . .

Worship, Education, and Social Opportunities

- We worshiped every day in a variety of ways, we prayed before every significant vote, and we had a chaplain available. It is always a highlight to join in singing with over 1,000 Lutherans!
- We participated in a Powwow that was moving and educational. Bishop Eaton received a blanket representing thanksgiving for her advocacy with the indigenous peoples of this country.
- AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) held a Candlelight Prayer Vigil to pray and advocate for refugees and immigrants. It was heartening to see elected officials and interfaith leaders present at this as well as ELCA voting members.
- Our synod joined voting members and guests from the Southwestern Texas Synod (our domestic companion synod) for a wonderful dinner and conversation.
- Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer, Rector and Dean of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University, led a beautiful reflection on the Nicene Creed for today.

I am thankful for the nine voting members from the NWWA Synod who attended and gave of their time and attention at the Churchwide Assembly. Additionally, many others from our synod went as observers, resource people, advisors, volunteers, and more.

In my reflection of this assembly, I continue to hear Martin Luther's words (as quoted by Rev. Dr Chad Rimmer in his keynote). As Dr. Rimmer stated:

Luther knew justification as a process of becoming. . . . Luther writes, "This life, therefore, is not righteousness but growth in righteousness, not health but healing, not being but becoming...we are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it; the process is not yet finished, but it is going on; this is not the end, but it is the road; all does not yet gleam with glory, but all is being purified." *Defense and Explanation of All the Articles*

May it be so. For the Life of the World.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | bishop@lutheransnw.org

Northwest Washington Synod

Bi-Annual Convention

October 4th, 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church, Lynnwood



Greetings to the Women of the NW WA Synod~

Our Bi-Annual Convention will soon be here, and it would be great to see you all there!

It is **October 4th at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood.**

(The registration form with information is included on page 26.)

We need one delegate from each church attending to be at the business meeting held at the beginning portion of the convention. If you are the only one from your church attending...you are the voting delegate, otherwise please elect one woman (of those attending) to be your delegate.

Our speaker for the day is **Pastor Mary Lindborg** who will be using **Psalm 16:11** as she shares **“You (God) Show Me the Path of Life”**. During our time together, we will explore both our own journeys and the way our journeys intersect with other women's paths, such as Lutheran women from different times and places. God shows us the path of life one step at a time, some of which are only clear in hindsight. Let's help each other reflect on the path of life we walk as women of faith. (Pastor Lindborg's bio was in the spring ECHO newsletter.)

Please fill out the **registration form** and send it with your **check** to our board treasurer, Linda Rudy, by **September 12th**. Please think about bringing a friend, carpooling, and enjoying a delightful day with other women of faith!

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the convention!
With Hope and Thankfulness~Twyla Lucas, president of NW WA WELCA

**2025 Bi-Annual Convention & Business Meeting of the NW WA Synod
Women's Organization of the Evangelical Lutheran church in America**

Saturday – October 4th / 9 am ~ 4 pm
(Doors open @ 8:30 am for registration)
Trinity Lutheran Church
6215 196th St SW., Lynnwood WA 98036

Please join with women from our Synod as we learn & grow as Women of the ELCA

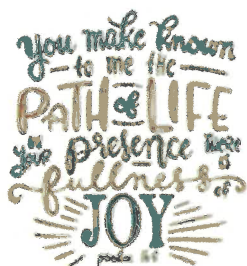
Your \$45 Donation* for the Day includes:

Business Meeting & Election of Board of Directors

Inspirational Guest Speaker

Worship Service

Lunch & Snacks, building usage



Pastor Mary Lindberg presents:

You Show Me the Path of Life (Psalm 16:11)

"During our time together we will explore both our own journeys and the way our journeys intersect with other women's paths, such as Lutheran women from different times and places. God shows us the path of life one step at a time, some of which are only clear in hindsight. Let's help each other reflect on the path of life we walk as women of faith".

Please complete the form below and mail it with your \$45 check to:

Linda Rudy / 17211 Chinook Ct. / Mount Vernon WA 98274

Checks made out to: NW SWO

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Home Church: _____ Are you a church delegate? Yes/No

Dietary Restrictions/Allergies: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Are you CPR Certified? (in case of an emergency) Yes/No

*Your \$45 donation is not refundable but may be transferred to another attendee in the event you are unable to attend.

Lutheran Counseling Network

September Faith and Everyday Life

Luke 13:10-17

We humans like it when things are settled. When we know what to expect. This gives us comfort. We like it when we can count on God to be the same yesterday, today, and always. When we know what to expect. It settles us. But so often Jesus breaks the rules, upsets our world view, defies our expectations. When this happens, we don't know what to do. We may object. We may even reject his love, his healing, his forgiveness.

That's how it was for the leader of the synagogue in this story. Jesus healed a woman who had been bent over in pain for 18 years. Everyone should have been happy, right? But this gift of healing came in a way that was unexpected, unorthodox. The leader of the synagogue didn't know what to make of it. He objected. He cited the rule book. He told people to come back and get their healing on the appointed day.

Jesus is clear. He directly challenges the leader of the synagogue, and the human-made restrictions we want to put on God. Have some common sense, he seems to say. You water your animals on the Sabbath. "And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for 18 long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" Wow. Preach it, Jesus.

Just when we think we have God figured out, Jesus breaks in and shakes us up. It can be unsettling. But the thing we can count on is that God is about love, and he sends Jesus to shake us out of our rules and our expectations, in order to discover, over and over again, what that love is really all about.

Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network

OSLC in Our Community

These are the community organizations that use our church building for meetings, worship services, music lessons, rehearsals, recitals, art events, and/or trainings:



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA



Spirit of Peace
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**ISSAQUAH
ARTS**



**LESSONS
IN YOUR HOME**



CITY OF
ISSAQUAH
POLICE



New Creation Church
(Messenger Evangelistic Ministries Int'l.)



We remember in prayer . . .

Dave C., for healing; Mary F., for healing and comfort; Dianne T., for no more infusions and progress towards maintenance; **Guests of the Community Meals Program;** all affected by COVID-19.

Mourning the death of loved ones: Marlene Pickering (long-time, active member); Tommie Troutman (long-time, active member); Beth Thompson (long-time friend of Sandy A.); Bellamy, who lived for 11 days (granddaughter of a friend of Marlice G.); Sherry Kiefel (former member and parish secretary).

Healing and peace of mind: Sandy A.; Lena S.; Peter R.; Shelley H.; John & Helen N.; Diane M.; Lyle L.; Henrik & Patty C.; Vern L.; Katie M.; Margot I.; Dorothy S.; Jeanne K.; Florence K.; Larry P.

Undergoing cancer treatment: Sandy A.; Rowan H.; Kim A. (dear friend of Shelley H.); Melinda N. (daughter of Cheryl & Lou N.); Jared K. (nephew of Jane W.); Suzanne L. (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice L.); Mary F.; Lou L. (Dianne T.); Baby Jack (nephew of Bill S.); Treasure H. (daughter of Rowan and Barbara H.); Dianne T.; John H. (Marilyn C.); Jim F. (son of Mary F.); Kirsten O.; Scott P. (Rowan H.); Kip H. (father of Cheryl H.).

Living with cancer: Peter R.; Mike (friend of Jane W.); Gene C. (cousin of Duane J.); Chris H. (brother of Mark H.); Peggy S. (cousin of Mark H.); Eileen L. (cousin of Mark H.); Sonja (Dianne T.); Gerald W. (Vern and Jeannie L.); Duane J.; Mary L. (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice L.); Suzanne L. (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice L.).



If you have any prayer requests to be added (or you or your loved ones no longer need to be on this list), please reach out to office@oslclissaquah.org. Thank you.



Worship Assistants for Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

Dates & Services	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Altar Guild	Sound & Videography
Sunday, September 7	Jen W.	Judy and Carl B.	Holly H.	Jon S.
Sunday, September 14	Debby B.	Rick and Jan W.	Jane W.	Anne E. and Jon S.
Sunday, September 21	Joan F.	Anne E. and Don R.	Stacy S.	Tom K. and Anne E.
Sunday, September 28	Connie F.	Larry T. and Bill S.	Barbara F-S.	Tom K. and Jon S.



*Please note that this schedule reflects information known as of September 2. It may be subject to last-minute changes.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

9/2 Irene C.
9/12 Michael A.
9/13 Miranda S.
9/14 Sharon S.
9/22 Paul C.
Jane S.
9/24 Ian D.V.
9/30 Robyn J.
Randy W.

Anniversaries

9/6 Doug & Sue F.
9/21 Jon & Stacy S.
Holly & Brian H.



If your name is missing from the birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office so we can update our records. We want you to be included!

September 2025

September 2025							October 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31	
28	29	30											

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 31	Sep 1 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 676 Meeting (Anderson Hall)	2 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	3	4 9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room) 2:00pm Timber Ridge	5	6
7 9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP) 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & 12:30pm New Creation	8 10:30am Congregational Care Ministry (Library) 5:00pm Master Chorus Eastside (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	9 1:00pm Community Meal Prep (Kitchen) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	10 9:30am Issaquah Garden Club (Anderson Hall, Kitchen)	11 9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room)	12	13
14 9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & 11:30am Zadinsky 12:30pm New Creation	15 9:00am Quirky Quilters (Education Room) 3:00pm Companions 5:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	16 7:00pm Council Executive Committee (online) (Zoom) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	17 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 676 PLC (Anderson Hall)	18 9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room) 1:00pm Community 7:00pm Finance	19	20
21 9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & 12:30pm New Creation 3:00pm Rock Painting	22 10:30am Congregational Care Ministry (Library) 3:00pm Companions 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	23 7:00pm Church Council (online) (Zoom) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	24	25 9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room)	26	27
28 9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP) 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & 12:30pm New Creation	29 3:00pm Companions Bible Study (online) 7:00pm Master Chorus Eastside (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	30 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	Oct 1	2	3	4

Our Savior Lutheran Church

745 Front Street South

Issaquah, WA 98027

425-392-4169



Stay connected!
www.oslcissaquah.org

The deadline for the October Focus will be September 22.
Please email items to office@oslcissaquah.org.

OSLC STAFF DIRECTORY

Pr. Kristin-Luana Baumann.....	Pastor
360-912-1245 (cell)	Pr.KL@oslcissaquah.org
Pr. Olaf Baumann.....	Pastor
360-912-1830 (cell)	Pr.O@oslcissaquah.org
Cynthia Delaney.....	Parish Administrator
425-392-4169 (office)	office@oslcissaquah.org
David Liu.....	Parish Musician
	davidliusmic@gmail.com

Emergency Pastoral Care

For emergency pastoral care, please contact Pr. Kristin-Luana Baumann at 360-912-1245 or Pr. Olaf Baumann at 360-912-1830.